

**King County Agriculture Commission
Minutes from July 20, 2006
King County Fairgrounds
Enumclaw WA**

Commissioners Present: Nancy Hutto, George Irwin, Bob Tidball, Ben Kodama, Roger Calhoon

Nominee Commissioners: Bob Vos, Larry Pickering, Judy Taylor

Staff: Steve Evans, Rick Reinlasoder, Claire Dyckman, Sarah Fickeison (intern) King County Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) Agriculture Programs; Julia Larson, Rural Economic Agenda, Executive Office.

Guest Agency Staff: Paul Borne, King Conservation District (KCD); Todd Murray, Washington State University Extension (WSU) KC

Guests: Bobbi Lindemulder, King Conservation District Board of Supervisors; Jeff McMorris, staff, Councilmember Kathy Lambert; Pat Traub, Enumclaw Forest and Foothills Association (EFRA); Joan Burlingame, citizen; Steve Hammond, citizen.

Nancy Hutto called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes: The Commission approved the minutes of the May Meeting.

Commission Roundabout:

Nancy Hutto briefly reported on her trip to Kenya and Rwanda, including passing around pictures of a tea plantation in Kenya. Bob Tidball reported on the strawberry season, George on the positive movement cattle markets.

Commission Business:

Decisions Made:

Motion: Bob Vos moved and Bob Tidball seconded that a letter be written in support of the KCD proposed assessment as presented by Bobbi Lindemulder. Copies should go to the King County Executive, King County Council, Watershed Resource Inventory Area Chairs (WRIA's). (Nancy Tidball would present the letter at the KCD Hearing on the next Monday.)

Motion: George moved and Larry seconded that the a transcript of the comments made at the beginning of the meeting – Public Comment - on the King County fair be sent to the Executive and Council.

Recommendations:

- Pat Traub of EFFRA should approach the Forest Commission on the issue of an equestrian overlay for the Rural Area and Forest Production District
- The Ag Commission will discuss equestrian trails in the future, perhaps in its joint meeting with the Forest Commission

Agency Reports:

King Conservation District (KCD) Bobbie Lindemulder reported on status of the KCD assessment:

- The last public meeting would be the next Monday, July 24th in Renton to comment on the draft Board proposal.
- The RCW passed in 1998 allows CD's to propose assessments to fund programs. Currently 11 districts exercise this option. Others are under grants or county funding.
- Two years ago the District realized it needed \$5 and, with the County, lobbied to get the assessment up to \$10.
- The so-called "6:2:2" formula (WRIA's: Jurisdictions: District) under which they operate this year is very different from what the District itself proposed a year ago.
- They have a very successful partnering program. To address some constraints they are proposing a budget in which the District would receive \$4 with the rest going to jurisdictions and WRIA's
- They think this is defensible to provide themselves with what they need, provide more funds to the jurisdictions who now must implement the WRIA plans, and get back a grant program proposed last time to address programs that tend to fall through the cracks with a watershed focus only – Boy Scouts, 4-H, FSA, school programs, Salmon Safe, etc that help the District meet its goals.
- They are hearing that many of the jurisdictions want 6:2:2 again.
- Instead of allocating in a way that locks them in, they proposed four basic project areas that meet the District goals and the goals of others.

Major discussion ensued. George Irwin and Bob Tidball noted that GMA requires agriculture and fish to be balanced equally. A variety of funds support fish but few support agriculture. KCD proposes that over 70% of their funding go to salmon. That contains an overlap with agriculture. Could the Commission see the total amount for agriculture, including the overlap with salmon? Bob Vos noted that the WRIA's want these funds to leverage other funds for CIP projects. While there are CIP projects in which the KCD would love to participate at a scale which they can afford, their funds are not an appropriate use for large multi-million dollar CIP projects.

Washington State University (WSU) Extension. Todd distributed handouts of the current WSU offerings.

Public Comment: Pat Traub of the Enumclaw Forest and Foothills Recreation Association alerted the Commission that horse trails in the Enumclaw area were being threatened by development and that the Comp Plan mechanism to address this needed to be corrected: equestrian trails in the Enumclaw area were designated as in the Agricultural Production District (APD), rather than in the surround rural and forest lands. She requested two items of the Commission: that the Commission ask the County to proceed to correct its map in the Comp Plan; that the Commission set aside some agenda time in the fall, perhaps in its joint meeting with the Forest Commission, to work with equestrian interests on the issue of preserving trails. Because the areas around the Plateau outside the APD are not designated as an equestrian overlay, mechanisms designed to protect equestrian thoroughfares or access are not initiated by the Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES). Joan Burlingame indicated that this issue is a problem in other areas south of I-90.

Nancy Hutto adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.